



LIBYA NEWS UPDATE

Friday, October 22, 2021

LIBYA ELECTIONS: EASTERN-BASED PARLIAMENT PUSHES BACK AGAINST US EFFORTS

Last week, Libya's eastern-based House of Representatives (HoR) passed a controversial law on legislative elections, postponing the vote until January 2022, 30 days after the expected Dec. 24th presidential vote. The move is a direct contravention of the UN-mediated roadmap, which states the two votes should be held simultaneously. The legislation is also considered an **attempt to undermine the recent US proposal** which suggested a first round of presidential elections on 24 December, along with parliamentary elections, and then a second and final round on 15 September 2022.



The law comes less than a month after the HoR speaker, Aguila Saleh, signed off a presidential elections law in a move observers said bypassed due process and favoured a run by his ally, eastern-based renegade warlord Khalifa Haftar. Shortly after, Haftar said he is handing over powers to a deputy for three months, allowing him to run for president under the HoR law and to resume his military role afterwards if he loses.

The Tripoli-based High Council of State, an advisory body for Libya formed under the terms of the UN-backed Libyan Political Agreement (LPA), called out the HoR's attempts to disrupt the election process, stating that it "rejects ongoing violations by the parliament... the latest being the promulgation of what it called the 'electoral law of the parliament'." The spokesman for the body, Mohammed Nasser, added that the 2015 LPA requires the HoR "to come to an agreement with the High Council of State on this law". Presidency Council chief Mohamed al-Menfi also weighed in, telling Reuters any election law needs to be agreed upon and that lacking consensus "is itself a risk".

US AGENTS EXAMINE LIGHT AIRCRAFT CITED IN LIBYA WAR REPORT

U.S. federal agents are in Cyprus inspecting a light aircraft, Cypriot police said on Wednesday, suggesting continuing international interest in a plane believed by U.N. experts to have been obtained two years ago to play a role in Libya's war.

In an emailed response to Reuters questions about the plane, Cyprus's transport ministry provided identification codes that match one of three aircraft cited in a March 2021 U.N. report by independent sanctions monitors about the conflict in Libya.



That report detailed allegations of a proposed **private military operation by Blackwater founder Erik Prince in support of the Libyan warlord Khalifa Haftar in 2019.**